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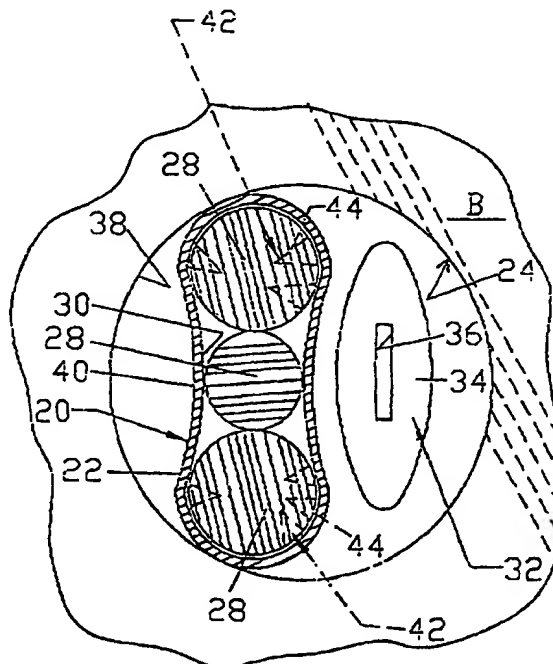


INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶: A61F 2/08	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 98/23229 (43) International Publication Date: 4 June 1998 (04.06.98)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/21910 (22) International Filing Date: 26 November 1997 (26.11.97) (30) Priority Data: 08/756,413 27 November 1996 (27.11.96) US (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: SKLAR, Joseph, H. [US/US]; 210 Park Drive, Longmeadow, MA 01106 (US). (72) Inventors: MARTINS, Harold, M.; 17 Scribner Park, Newton, MA 02116 (US). WENSTROM, Richard, F., Jr.; 72 Sycamore Street, Norwood, MA 02062 (US). (74) Agent: PANDISCIO, Mark, J.; Pandiscio & Pandiscio, 470 Totten Pond Road, Waltham, MA 02154 (US).		(81) Designated States: AU, CA, FI, JP, KR, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: GRAFT LIGAMENT ANCHOR AND METHOD FOR ATTACHING A GRAFT LIGAMENT TO A BONE**(57) Abstract**

A graft ligament anchor comprises a graft ligament engagement member (20) disposed in an opening (29) in a bone, the graft ligament engagement member (20) being arranged to receive a graft ligament (28) alongside the engagement member (20), and a locking member (32) for disposition in the opening, and at least in part engaging with the graft ligament engagement member (20). Movement of the locking member (32) in the opening causes the locking member (32) to urge the engagement member (20), and the graft ligament (28) therewith, toward a wall of the opening, to secure the graft ligament (28) to the wall of the opening. A method for attaching a graft ligament (28) to a bone comprises providing an opening in the bone, inserting the graft ligament (28) and a graft ligament engagement member (20) in the opening, with the graft ligament (28) disposed alongside a first portion of the engagement member (20), and inserting a locking member (32) in the bone alongside a second portion of the engagement member (20), the locking member (32) being separated from the graft ligament (28) by the graft ligament engagement member (20). The method further comprises moving the locking member (32) to cause the locking member (32) to engage the graft ligament engagement member (20) to urge the graft ligament engagement member (20), and the graft ligament (28) therewith, toward a wall of the opening to secure the graft ligament to the wall of the opening.



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GRAFT LIGAMENT ANCHOR AND METHOD FOR
ATTACHING A GRAFT LIGAMENT TO A BONE

Field Of The Invention

This invention relates to medical apparatus and methods in general, and more particularly to apparatus and methods for reconstructing ligaments.

Background Of The Invention

Ligaments are tough bands of tissue which serve to connect the articular extremities of bones, or to support or retain organs in place within the body. Ligaments are typically composed of coarse bundles of dense white fibrous tissue which are disposed in a parallel or closely interlaced manner, with the fibrous tissue being pliant and flexible, but not significantly extensible.

In many cases, ligaments are torn or ruptured as a result of accidents. As a result, various procedures have been developed to repair or replace such damaged ligaments.

For example, in the human knee, the anterior and posterior cruciate ligaments (i.e., the ACL and PCL) extend between the top end of the tibia and the bottom end of the femur. The ACL and PCL cooperate, together with other ligaments and soft tissue, to provide both static and dynamic stability to the knee. Often, the anterior cruciate ligament (i.e., the ACL) is ruptured or torn as a result of, for example, a sports-related injury. Consequently, various surgical procedures have

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been developed for reconstructing the ACL so as to restore normal function to the knee.

In many instances, the ACL may be reconstructed by replacing the ruptured ACL with a graft ligament. More particularly, with such procedures, bone tunnels are typically formed in the top end of the tibia and the bottom end of the femur, with one end of the graft ligament being positioned in the femoral tunnel and the other end of the graft ligament being positioned in the tibial tunnel. The two ends of the graft ligament are anchored in place in various ways known in the art so that the graft ligament extends between the femur and the tibia in substantially the same way, and with substantially the same function, as the original ACL. This graft ligament then cooperates with the surrounding anatomical structures so as to restore normal function to the knee.

In some circumstances the graft ligament may be a ligament or tendon which is harvested from elsewhere in the patient; in other circumstances the graft ligament may be a synthetic device. For the purposes of the present invention, all of the foregoing can be collectively referred to as a "graft ligament".

As noted above, the graft ligament may be anchored in place in various ways. See, for example, U.S. Patent No. 4,828,562, issued May 9, 1989 to Robert V. Kenna; U.S. Patent No. 4,744,793, issued May 17, 1988 to Jack E. Parr et al.; U.S. Patent No. 4,755,183, issued July 5, 1988 to Robert V. Kenna; U.S. Patent No. 4,927,421, issued May 22, 1990 to E. Marlowe Goble et

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al.; U.S. Patent No. 4,950,270, issued August 21, 1990 to Jerald A. Bowman et al.; U.S. Patent No. 5,062,843, issued November 5, 1991 to Thomas H. Mahony, III; U.S. Patent No. 5,147,362, issued September 15, 1992 to E. Marlowe Goble; U.S. Patent No. 5,211,647, issued May 18, 1993 to Reinhold Schmieding; U.S. Patent No. 5,151,104, issued September 29, 1992 to Robert V. Kenna; U.S. Patent No. 4,784,126, issued November 15, 1988 to Donald H. Hourahane; U.S. Patent No. 4,590,928, issued May 27, 1986 to Michael S. Hunt et al.; and French Patent Publication No. 2,590,792, filed December 4, 1985 by Francis Henri Breard.

Despite the above-identified advances in the art, there remains a need for a graft ligament anchor which is simple, easy to install, and inexpensive to manufacture, while providing secure, trouble-free anchoring of the graft ligament, typically in the knee joint of a mammal.

Objects Of The Invention

Accordingly, one object of the present invention is to provide an improved graft ligament anchor which is relatively simple in construction and therefore inexpensive to manufacture, relatively easy to handle and install, and reliable and safe in operation.

Another object of the present invention is to provide an improved method for attaching a graft ligament to a bone.

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Summary Of The Invention

These and other objects of the present invention are addressed by the provision and use of a novel graft ligament anchor comprising graft ligament engagement means for disposition in an opening in a bone, such that a wall of the graft ligament engagement means resides adjacent to at least one graft ligament disposed in the opening, and locking means for disposition in the opening in the bone and at least partially engageable with the graft ligament engagement means. The elements of the graft ligament anchor are adapted such that movement of the locking means in the opening in the bone causes at least a part of the locking means to engage the graft ligament engagement means so as to urge the graft ligament engagement means, and hence the portion of the graft ligament disposed adjacent thereto, toward a wall of the opening in the bone, whereby to secure the graft ligament to the wall of the opening.

In use, an opening is made in the bone, and the graft ligament and the graft ligament engagement means are inserted into the opening, with a portion of the graft ligament being disposed alongside a wall of the graft ligament engagement means. In accordance with the present invention, the locking means are also positioned in the opening in the bone, alongside the graft ligament engagement means, with the locking means being separated from the graft ligament by a portion of the graft ligament engagement means. The method further includes moving the locking means in the

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opening in the bone so as to cause at least a portion thereof to urge the graft ligament engagement means, and hence the portion of the graft ligament disposed adjacent thereto, toward a wall of the opening, whereby to secure the graft ligament to the wall of the opening.

Brief Description Of The Drawings

These and other objects and features of the present invention will be more fully disclosed or rendered obvious by the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments of the invention, which are to be considered together with the accompanying drawings wherein like numbers refer to like parts, and further wherein:

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatic sectional view of one form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 2 is similar to Fig. 1, but shows the graft ligament anchor components in different operating positions;

Fig. 3 is similar to Fig. 1, but shows an alternative embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 4 is a diagrammatic sectional view of another form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 5 is similar to Fig. 4, but shows the graft ligament anchor components in different operating positions;

Fig. 6 is a diagrammatic sectional view of another form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a diagrammatic sectional view of still another form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 8 is a diagrammatic sectional view of yet another form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of one of the components of the graft ligament anchor shown in Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is a diagrammatic sectional view of still another form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 11 is a diagrammatic view of still another form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 12 is a diagrammatic sectional view of yet another form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 13 is similar to Fig. 12, but shows the graft ligament anchor components in different operating conditions;

Fig. 13A is a diagrammatic sectional view of still another form of ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 14 is a top plan view of still another form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

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Fig. 15 is a side view, in section, of the graft ligament anchor shown in Fig. 14;

Fig. 16 is a side view showing the graft ligament anchor of Figs. 14 and 15 securing a graft ligament to a bone;

Fig. 17 is similar to a portion of Fig. 16, but showing components of the graft ligament anchor and graft ligament of Fig. 16 in alternative positions;

Fig. 18 is a top plan view of yet another form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 19 is a side view, in section, of the graft ligament anchor shown in Fig. 18;

Fig. 20 is a diagrammatic sectional view of still another form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention;

Fig. 21 is a perspective view of a component of the graft ligament anchor shown in Fig. 20;

Fig. 22 is a diagrammatic sectional view of still another form of graft ligament anchor made in accordance with the present invention; and

Fig. 23 is a perspective view of components of the graft ligament anchor of Fig. 22.

Detailed Description Of The Preferred Embodiments

Referring first to Fig. 1, it will be seen that one illustrative embodiment of the present invention includes a graft ligament engagement means 20 comprising a deformable sleeve 22, preferably formed out of metal or plastic, and adapted to be inserted

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into an opening 24 formed in a bone B. One or more graft ligaments 28 are disposed alongside an interior wall 30 of sleeve 22.

The embodiment illustrated in Fig. 1 further includes locking means 32, which may be a pivotally movable rocker arm 34, which may be provided with a slot 36 for receiving a key member (not shown) for turning rocker arm 34.

Referring to Fig. 2, it will be seen that turning rocker arm 34 enables a portion of the rocker arm to impinge upon an exterior surface 40 of sleeve 22 so as to force sleeve 22, and hence graft ligaments 28 contained therein, toward sidewall 38 of opening 24, whereby to secure sleeve 22 and graft ligaments 28 between opening sidewall 38 and locking means 32.

In operation, opening 24 is first made in bone B and then graft ligaments 28 and graft ligament engagement means 20 are inserted into opening 24, with graft ligaments 28 being disposed alongside a first wall, i.e., the interior wall 30, of sleeve 22. Locking means 32 are inserted into opening 24 alongside the exterior surface 40 of sleeve 22. Locking means 32 are thus separated from graft ligaments 28 by graft ligament engagement means 20, i.e., sleeve 22. As noted above, movement of locking means 32 causes at least a portion thereof to engage sleeve 22 and to crimp the sleeve inwardly upon graft ligaments 28, and to push both sleeve 22 and graft ligaments 28 against sidewall 38 of opening 24.

If it is desired to thereafter release graft ligaments 28, rocker arm 34 may be moved back to the position shown in Fig. 1. To this end, graft ligament engagement means 20 preferably are formed out of a resilient material, whereby engagement means 20 can return to substantially the same position shown in Fig. 1 when locking means 32 return to the position shown in Fig. 1.

If desired, substantially all of sleeve 22 can be formed so as to be deformable; alternatively, some of sleeve 22 can be formed so as to be rigid. By way of example, the portion of sleeve 22 contacted by locking means 32 can be formed so as to be substantially rigid.

Graft ligaments 28 may comprise natural or synthetic graft ligament material, and the anchor can be used to attach natural or synthetic graft ligaments and/or tendons to bone. Sleeve 22 preferably is provided with inwardly-extending protrusions 42, such as spikes 44, for securely retaining graft ligaments 28 therein.

Locking means 32 may be a rocker arm type, such as the rocker arm member 34 shown in Figs. 1 and 2, or a generally conically-shaped expansion plug 46, as shown in Fig. 3, with the expansion plug preferably being threaded such that as the plug is screwed into place, an increasing diameter of the plug engages sleeve 22 in a wedge-like manner so as to force the sleeve against interior wall 38 of opening 24.

In Fig. 4, there is shown an alternative embodiment in which graft ligaments 28 are disposed

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alongside exterior wall 40 of sleeve 22, and locking means 32 is disposed within sleeve 22. With this embodiment, locking means 32 operate to engage interior wall 30 of the sleeve (Fig. 5), whereby to force graft ligaments 28 against sidewall 38 of opening 24. Again, locking means 32 may be a rocker arm type, such as the rocker arm member 34 shown in Figs. 4 and 5, or may be an expansion plug 46, preferably threaded, of the sort shown in Fig. 3. With the embodiment shown in Figs. 4 and 5, sleeve 22 may be provided with protrusions 42 (in the form of spikes 44, for example) on the exterior wall 40 thereof for engagement with graft ligaments 28. In many instances, it is beneficial to provide at least two discrete graft ligaments 28 and, in such cases, it is preferable that the graft ligaments be disposed on substantially opposite diametric sides of the sleeve, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

In Fig. 6, there is shown an embodiment similar to that shown in Figs. 4 and 5, but provided with an expandable sleeve 22A, rather than a deformable metal or plastic sleeve 22 as shown in Figs. 1-5. Sleeve 22A may be formed out of an elastomeric material, and it is expanded radially outwardly by engagement with a centrally disposed locking means 32 (preferably in the form of a threaded expansion plug 46) so as to force graft ligaments 28 outward into a secured position between sleeve 22A and opening sidewall 38.

In operation, the embodiments shown in Figs. 4-6 function similarly to the embodiments shown in Figs. 1-3 in attaching graft ligaments 28 to bone B. Opening

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24 is first made in bone B. Graft ligaments 28 and graft ligament engagement means 20 (in the form of sleeve 22 or sleeve 22A) are inserted into opening 24, with graft ligaments 28 disposed alongside exterior wall 40 of the graft ligament engagement means, i.e., alongside the exterior wall 40 of sleeve 22 or sleeve 22A. Locking means 32 (in the form of a rocker arm member 34 or a threaded expansion plug 46) are inserted axially into the sleeve, alongside interior wall 30 of the sleeve. Locking means 32 are thus separated from the graft ligaments 28 by the sleeve (22 or 22A). Then locking means 32 are manipulated so as to engage the sleeve (22 or 22A) and thereby urge the sleeve, and hence graft ligaments 28, toward opening sidewall 38, whereby to secure the sleeve and graft ligaments to the wall of the opening.

If and when it is desired to adjust tension on graft ligaments 28, locking means 32 may be backed off, that is, if locking means 32 comprise the rocker arm type cam member 34, the arm need only be rotated 90° from the positions shown in Figs. 2 and 3, to return to the positions shown, respectively, in Figs. 1 and 4; if, on the other hand, locking means 32 comprise expansion plug 46, the plug need only be unscrewed or otherwise axially withdrawn so as to release the securing of the graft ligaments.

Referring next to Fig. 7, it will be seen that in an alternative embodiment, graft ligament engagement means 20 comprises plate means 48 which are movable transversely within the bone opening. As in the

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embodiments previously described, graft ligaments 28 are disposed alongside a wall 50 of graft ligament engagement means 20, which in this instance is a first major surface of plate means 48. Graft ligament engagement means 20 are disposed between graft ligaments 28 and locking means 32. Locking means 32 may be, as in the above-described embodiments, an expansion plug 46 (as shown in Fig. 7), or locking means 32 may be a rocker arm type of cam member 34 (of the sort shown in Figs. 1, 2, 4 and 5). Locking means 32 are adapted to impinge upon a second major surface 52 of plate means 48. Plate means 48, in the embodiment shown in Fig. 7, comprises a single plate 54 having, on first major surface 50 thereof, one or more concavities 56 for nesting one or more graft ligaments 28, respectively.

In the attachment of one or more graft ligaments 28 to a bone B, using the embodiment of Fig. 7, locking means 32 are manipulated so as to bear against plate 54 so as to move plate 54 into engagement with graft ligaments 28, and thence to further move plate 54 so as to secure the graft ligaments against sidewall 38 of opening 24.

Referring next to Fig. 8, it will be seen that locking means 32 may comprise the threaded expansion plug 46 deployed partly in opening 24 and threaded partly into bone B, thus serving as a so-called interference screw. With this arrangement, plug 46 is thereby (i) in part along its length disposed in opening 24, protruding into the opening from opening

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wall 38, and (ii) in part along its length threadedly engaged with bone B. Screwing in plug 46 causes the plug to engage plate 54 which, in turn, compacts one or more graft ligaments 28 against wall 38 of opening 24.

In lieu of, or in addition to, the aforementioned concavities 56 shown in Fig. 7, plate 54 may be provided with gripper ribs 58 for engaging graft ligaments 28, as shown in Figs. 8 and 9.

In Fig. 10, it is shown that plate means 48 may include first and second plates 60, 62, each having a wall 50 facing one or more graft ligaments 28, and a wall 52 facing locking means 32. Plates 60, 62 may be joined together by a link 64 which may be molded integrally with plates 60, 62 so as to form a so-called "living hinge" link. Locking means 32 are depicted in Fig. 10 as a rocker arm type of cam member 34, but it will be appreciated that an expansion plug type of locking means (e.g., a plug 46 such as that shown in Figs. 3, 6 and 7) might also be used.

In operation, rotative movement of rocker arm 34 (or axial movement of expansion plug 46) causes plates 60, 62 to move outwardly from each other so as to urge graft ligaments 28 against wall 38 of opening 24. Walls 50 of plates 60, 62 may be provided with concavities 56, as shown in Fig. 10, or with ribs 58 of the sort shown in Fig. 9, or both.

Referring next to Fig. 11, it will be seen that still another embodiment of the present invention includes, as graft ligament engagement means 20, a V-shaped strip 94, preferably made out of a resilient

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metal or plastic material. An end portion 96 of a graft ligament 28 is disposed between first and second leg portions 98, 100 of V-shaped strip 94, and graft ligament 28 extends alongside an exterior surface 102 of second leg portion 100. Locking means 32 comprise a threaded expansion plug 46 disposed partly in opening 24 and partly in bone B, along sidewall 38 of opening 24, in a manner similar to the disposition of threaded expansion plug 46 shown in Fig. 8.

Upon screwing in expansion plug 46, the expansion plug engages first leg 98 of graft ligament engagement means 20 (i.e., the V-shaped strip 94) to force first leg 98 to close upon second leg 100 with the graft ligament end portion 96 sandwiched therebetween and, upon further screwing in of threaded expansion plug 46, to force graft ligament engagement means 20 and graft ligament 28 against wall 38 of opening 24. To release graft ligament 28, an operator need only back out expansion plug 46.

When attaching a graft ligament to a bone with the graft ligament anchor shown in Fig. 11, an opening is first drilled, or otherwise made, in the bone. Then the V-shaped strip 94 is inserted into the opening, with a nose portion 104 thereof pointed inwardly of the bone. Next, end portion 96 of graft ligament 28 is inserted between first and second leg portions 98, 100 of V-shaped strip 94. Threaded expansion plug 46 is then inserted into opening wall 38 such that a first portion 106 of the lengthwise extent of plug 46 is disposed in opening 24, and second portion 108 of the

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lengthwise extent of plug 46 is threadedly engaged with bone B. Expansion plug 46 is then screwed further down so as to cause plug 46 to engage first leg 98 of V-shaped strip 94 so as to secure graft ligament end portion 96 in V-shaped strip 94, and then screwed down further to wedge strip 94 and graft ligament 28 against wall 38 of opening 24.

Still referring to Fig. 11, it is to be appreciated that bone opening 24 may be formed with a constant diameter throughout its length or, if desired, may be formed with two different diameters along its length, in the manner shown in Fig. 11, so as to form an annular shoulder 110 within the bone opening. The provision of an annular shoulder 110 can be very helpful in ensuring that the graft ligament anchor is prevented from migrating further into bone B, even if graft ligament 28 should thereafter be subjected to substantial retraction forces.

In a modification (not shown) of the Fig. 11 embodiment, the expansion plug 46 may be entered alongside graft ligament 28 and second leg portion 100 of strip 94. In this modified version, the expansion plug 46 operates as described above, except that expansion plug 46 engages graft ligament 28 and forces strip first leg 98 against wall 38 of opening 24.

Looking next at Figs. 12 and 13, yet another form of graft ligament anchor is disclosed. This graft ligament anchor is similar to the embodiment shown in Fig. 6, except that the expandable sleeve 22B is in the form of a cylindrical coil. Sleeve 22B is formed out

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of an elastomeric material and is expanded radially outwardly by engagement with a centrally disposed locking means 32 (preferably an axially-movable threaded expansion plug 46) so as to force graft ligament 28 outward into a secured position between sleeve 22B and bone B.

In Fig. 13A there is shown an embodiment similar to that shown in Fig. 10, but in which the first and second plates 60, 62 are discrete plates and not connected to each other. With this arrangement, locking means 32 is inserted into a central recess 74 defined by plate walls 52, and may comprise either an expansion plug 46 of the type shown in Figs. 6 and 7 or a rocker arm type of cam member 34 of the type shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Looking next at Figs. 14 and 15, another graft ligament anchor 200 is shown. Anchor 200 includes graft ligament engagement means 20 comprising a flat plate 201, a pair of through-holes 202, 204 and a threaded through-hole 206. In use, and looking now at Figs. 14, 15 and 16, the free end 96 of graft ligament 28 is passed downward through hole 202 and then back upward again through hole 204, and then a screw 208 is used to secure anchor 200 to the wall 210 of the bone opening by threading the shank of screw 208 through hole 206, through graft ligament 28, and into bone B. This will cause screw 208 and plate 201 to securely attach graft ligament 28 to bone B.

As shown in Fig. 17, alternatively, graft ligament 28 may be passed upwardly through hole 202 and

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downwardly through hole 204. Screw 208 is then threaded through hole 206 and graft ligament 28 and into bone B. Thus, as in the embodiment shown in Fig. 16, screw 208 and plate 201 secure graft ligament 28 to bone B.

Figs. 18 and 19 show another graft ligament anchor 200A. Graft ligament anchor 200A is similar to graft ligament anchor 200, except that it includes a plurality of spikes 212 for projecting into wall 210 (Fig. 16) of bone B when the graft ligament anchor is deployed against the bone. Also, graft ligament anchor 200A has an enlarged configuration 214 in the region of through-hole 206A, as shown in Fig. 18.

Referring next to Fig. 20, there is shown a still further alternative embodiment of graft ligament anchor, similar to that shown in Fig. 7, wherein graft ligament engagement means 20 comprises plate means 48 formed in a U-shaped configuration (Fig. 21) movable transversely within bone opening 24. At least one graft ligament 28 is disposed alongside wall 50 of graft ligament engagement means 20, which in this instance is a first major surface of plate means 48. Graft ligament engagement means 20 is disposed between graft ligament 28 and locking means 32. Locking means 32 may be an expansion plug 46, as shown in Fig. 20 and in Fig. 7, or a rocker arm type cam member 34, as shown in Fig. 1, or an interference screw type expansion plug 46, as shown in Fig. 11, or a transverse screw 208, as shown in Fig. 16.

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In attachment of one or more graft ligaments 28 to a bone B, using the embodiment of Fig. 20, locking means 32 is manipulated so as to bear against a second major surface 52 of plate means 48 and thereby move plate means 48 into engagement with graft ligament 28, and thence to drive free ends 49 of plate means 48 into sidewall 38 of opening 24 so as to fasten graft ligament 28 to sidewall 38 and, thereby, to bone B.

Referring to Figs. 22 and 23, there is shown still another alternative embodiment of graft ligament anchor including a tubular member 300, open at first and second ends 302, 304 and having an opening 306 in the sidewall thereof. Otherwise, the graft ligament anchor of Fig. 22 is similar to the graft ligament anchor of Fig. 20, described hereinabove.

In attachment of one or more graft ligaments 28 to a bone, using the embodiment of Figs. 22 and 23, locking means 32 are manipulated to bear against second major surface 52 of plate means 48 so as to move plate means 48 through tubular member opening 306 and into engagement with graft ligament 28, and thence further to drive free ends 49 of plate means 48 into sidewall 38 of opening 24, whereby to fasten tubular member 300 and graft ligament 28 to sidewall 38 and, thereby, to bone B. In this embodiment, and in the embodiments shown in Figs. 1-3, an operator may fasten the graft ligament to the bone without the graft ligament contacting the bone. The tubular member 300 preferably is of a plastic or metallic material and the plate means 48 is of a plastic or metallic material. In the

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embodiments shown in Figs. 20 and 22, the plate means 48 may be provided with interior teeth 47 for gripping graft ligament 28.

It is to be understood that the present invention is by no means limited to the particular constructions and methods herein disclosed and/or shown in the drawings, but also comprises any modifications or equivalents within the scope of the claims.

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A graft ligament anchor comprising:

graft ligament engagement means for disposition in an opening in a bone so that a wall of said graft ligament engagement means is disposed adjacent to at least one graft ligament disposed in said opening; and

locking means for disposition in said opening and at least in part engageable with said graft ligament engagement means;

whereby movement of said locking means in said opening causes at least a part of said locking means to engage said graft ligament engagement means so as to urge said graft ligament engagement means, and hence said graft ligament, toward a wall of said opening, whereby to secure said graft ligament to said wall of said opening.

2. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 1 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprises a deformable sleeve.

3. The graft ligament anchor according to claim 2 wherein said graft ligament is disposed alongside an interior wall of said sleeve.

4. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 3 wherein said interior wall of said sleeve is provided

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with inwardly extending protrusions for engaging said graft ligament.

5. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 3 wherein said locking means comprise a selected one of a group consisting of a rocker arm, an expansion plug, a threaded expansion plug, and a transverse screw.

6. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 3 wherein said graft ligament engagement means is arranged so as to be disposed between said locking means and said graft ligament.

7. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 6 wherein said locking means are disposed outside of said sleeve.

8. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 3 wherein said graft ligament engagement means are adapted to accommodate a discrete second graft ligament disposed alongside said interior wall of said sleeve.

9. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 2 wherein said sleeve is made out of metal.

10. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 2 wherein said graft ligament is disposed alongside an exterior wall of said sleeve.

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11. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 10 wherein said locking means comprise a selected one of a group consisting of a rocker arm, an expansion plug, and a threaded expansion plug.

12. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 10 wherein said graft ligament engagement means are adapted to accommodate a discrete second graft ligament disposed alongside said exterior wall of said sleeve.

13. The graft ligament anchor according to claim 12 wherein said locking means are disposed inside of said sleeve.

14. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 1 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprise plate means adapted to accommodate said graft ligament alongside a first major surface of said plate means, and said locking means are disposed alongside a second major surface of said plate means.

15. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 14 wherein said first major surface of said plate means is provided with a concavity for receiving said graft ligament.

16. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 14 wherein said locking means comprise a selected one of a group consisting of a rocker arm, an expansion plug, a threaded expansion plug, and a transverse screw.

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17. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 14 wherein said plate means comprise first and second plates.

18. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 17 wherein said first and second plates are hingedly joined.

19. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 14 wherein said locking means comprise a threaded expansion plug which is disposed in part in said bore and in part threadedly engaged in said bone along said side wall of said bore.

20. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 1 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprise a deformable sleeve adapted to accommodate said graft ligament alongside an interior wall of said sleeve, and said locking means comprise a selected one of a group consisting of a rocker arm, an expansion plug, a threaded expansion plug, and a transverse screw, with said locking means being arranged for disposition outside of said sleeve, and said locking means being operable to urge said sleeve, with said graft ligament, against said wall of said bore.

21. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 20 wherein said graft ligament engagement means are adapted to accommodate a discrete second graft ligament

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disposed alongside said interior wall of said sleeve, said locking means being operable to urge said sleeve, with said graft ligaments therein, against said wall of said bore..

22. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 1 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprise a deformable sleeve adapted to accommodate at least one graft ligament alongside an exterior wall of said sleeve, and said locking means comprise a selected one of a group consisting of a rocker arm, an expansion plug, and a threaded expansion plug, with said locking means being arranged for disposition within said sleeve, and said locking means being operable to urge said sleeve, and said graft ligament, against said wall of said bore.

23. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 22 wherein said graft ligament engagement means are adapted to accommodate a discrete second graft ligament disposed alongside said exterior wall of said sleeve, said locking means being operable to urge said sleeve, and said graft ligaments, against said wall of said bore.

24. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 23 wherein said graft ligament engagement means are adapted to accommodate said graft ligaments on substantially opposite diametric sides of said sleeve.

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25. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 1 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprise a plate adapted to accommodate said graft ligament alongside a first major surface of said plate, and said locking means comprise a selected one of a group consisting of a rocker arm, an expansion plug, a threaded expansion plug, and a transverse screw, said locking means being disposed alongside a second major surface of said plate, such that said locking means are operable to move said plate and urge said graft ligament into secure engagement with said wall of said opening.

26. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 25 wherein said graft ligament engagement means are adapted to accommodate a discrete second graft ligament disposed alongside said first major surface of said plate, and said plate is adapted to urge said graft ligament into said secure engagement with said wall of said opening.

27. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 1 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprises first and second plates, said graft ligament engagement means being adapted to accommodate a first graft ligament alongside a first major surface of said first plate and a discrete second graft ligament alongside a first major surface of said second plate, said locking means being disposed between second major surfaces of said first and second plates and adapted to urge said

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first and second plates away from each other to urge said graft ligaments against said wall of said opening.

28. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 27 wherein said locking means comprise a selected one of a group consisting of a rocker arm, an expansion plug, and a threaded expansion plug.

29. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 27 wherein said first and second plates are hingedly connected to each other.

30. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 1 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprise a V-shaped strip, said graft ligament engagement means being adapted to accommodate an end of said graft ligament disposed between first and second legs of said V-shaped strip, and another portion of said graft ligament extending alongside an exterior surface of said second of said legs, and said locking means comprise a threaded expansion plug disposed partly in said opening and partly in said bone along said wall of said opening, said expansion plug being adapted to engage one of said legs of said graft ligament engagement means to force said one leg to close upon the other of said legs, with said graft ligament end clamped between said first and second legs, and to force said graft ligament engagement means and said graft ligament against said wall of said opening.

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31. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 30 wherein said one of said legs comprises said first leg and said other of said legs comprises said second leg.

32. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 22 wherein said sleeve comprises a cylindrically-shaped coil adapted to uncoil and expand upon said operation of said locking means within said sleeve.

33. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 1 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprises a plate having a plurality of holes therethrough for passing said graft ligament therethrough, and a further hole therethrough for receiving said locking means, said locking means comprising a transverse screw for passing through said plate and said graft ligament and into said wall of said opening, to secure said graft ligament to said wall.

34. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 33 wherein a portion of said plate is adapted to bear against said graft ligament when said screw is deployed in said opening wall.

35. A method for attaching a graft ligament to a bone, said method comprising the steps of:
providing an opening in said bone;
inserting said graft ligament and a graft ligament engagement means in said opening, with said graft

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ligament disposed alongside a first portion of said graft ligament engagement means;

inserting locking means in said opening proximate a second portion of said graft ligament engagement means, said locking means being separated from said graft ligament by said graft ligament engagement means; and

moving said locking means to cause at least a portion thereof to engage said graft ligament engagement means to urge said graft ligament engagement means, and hence said graft ligament, toward a wall of said opening to secure said graft ligament to said wall of said opening.

36. A method according to claim 35 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprises a deformable sleeve.

37. A method according to claim 36 wherein said locking means is disposed outside of said sleeve, said first portion of said graft ligament engagement means comprises an interior wall of said sleeve and said second portion of said graft ligament engagement means comprises an exterior wall of said sleeve.

38. A method according to claim 36 wherein said locking means is disposed inside of said sleeve, said first portion of said graft ligament engagement means comprises an exterior wall of said sleeve, and said

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second portion of said graft ligament engagement means comprises an interior wall of said sleeve.

39. A method according to claim 35 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprises at least one plate.

40. A method according to claim 39 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprises first and second plates, said graft ligament is disposed alongside a first major surface of one of said plates, and said locking means is inserted between second major surfaces of said plates.

41. A method according to claim 40 wherein said first and second plates are hingedly connected to each other.

42. A method according to claim 39 wherein said locking means comprises a threaded expansion plug and wherein said plug is screwed into said wall of said opening such that a first portion of the lengthwise extent of said plug is disposed in said opening and a second portion of the lengthwise extent of said plug is threadedly engaged with said bone, said plug being engageable with said graft ligament engagement means to urge said graft ligament engagement means and said graft ligament toward said wall of said opening opposite from said plug.

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43. A method for attaching a graft ligament to a bone, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an opening in said bone;

inserting into said opening a V-shaped strip with a nose portion of said strip pointed inwardly of said bone;

inserting an end portion of said graft ligament between first and second legs of said V-shaped strip;

inserting a threaded expansion plug along a wall of said opening such that a first portion of the lengthwise extent of said plug is disposed in said opening and a second portion of the lengthwise extent of said plug is threadably engaged with said bone;

and screwing said plug into said bone to cause said plug to engage one of said legs of said V-shaped strip, forcing said one leg against the other of said legs with said graft ligament between said first and second legs and, upon further screwing in of said plug, forcing said strip against said wall of said opening at a location opposite from said plug to secure said strip, and thereby said graft ligament, against said wall of said opening.

44. A method according to claim 43 wherein said one leg comprises said first leg, and said other leg comprises said second leg.

45. A method for attaching a graft ligament to a bone, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an opening in said bone;

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inserting into said opening a plate having a plurality of holes therethrough for receiving said graft ligament and a further hole therethrough for receiving a screw;

extending said graft ligament through said plurality of holes in an over-and-under fashion and across said further hole; and

driving a screw through said further hole, said graft ligament and into a wall of said opening;

whereby to press a portion of said graft ligament against said wall with a portion of said plate and to screw another portion of said graft ligament to said wall.

46. A method according to claim 45 wherein said screw is driven through said graft ligament and then through said further hole and into said wall of said opening.

47. A method according to claim 45 wherein said screw is driven through said further hole and then through said graft ligament and into said wall of said opening.

48. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 1 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprises a U-shaped plate having two free ends, and said locking means is engageable with an outside back surface of said plate, whereby said movement of said locking means causes at least said part of said locking means to

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engage said back surface of said plate to urge said plate and said graft ligament toward said wall of said opening to drive said plate free ends into said wall of said opening to secure said graft ligament to said wall of said opening.

49. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 48 wherein said locking means comprises one selected from a group consisting of a cam member, an expansion plug, a threaded interference screw, and a transverse screw.

50. A graft ligament anchor according to claim 49 wherein said anchor further comprises a tubular member for disposition in said opening in said bone and having open first and second ends and an opening in a side wall portion of said member, said graft ligament extending through said first and second ends of said member, and said plate being movable through said opening in said side wall of said tubular member to engage said graft ligament and to lodge in said bone opening wall.

51. A method according to claim 35 wherein said graft ligament engagement means comprises a U-shaped plate and said locking means is moved toward said plate to drive free ends of said plate into said wall of said bone opening.

52. A method according to claim 51 including the further step of providing a tubular member in said

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opening in said bone, said member having first and second open ends and having an opening in a side wall thereof, extending said graft ligament through said first and second open ends, and moving said plate through said tubular member side opening to engage said graft ligament and to drive said free ends of said plate into said wall of said bone opening.

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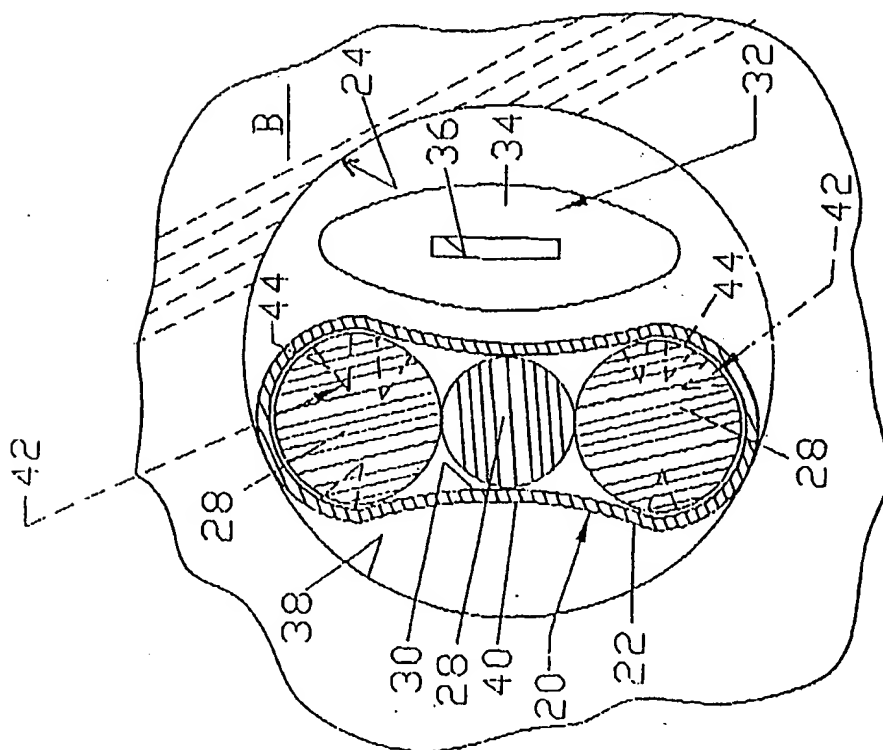


FIG. 1

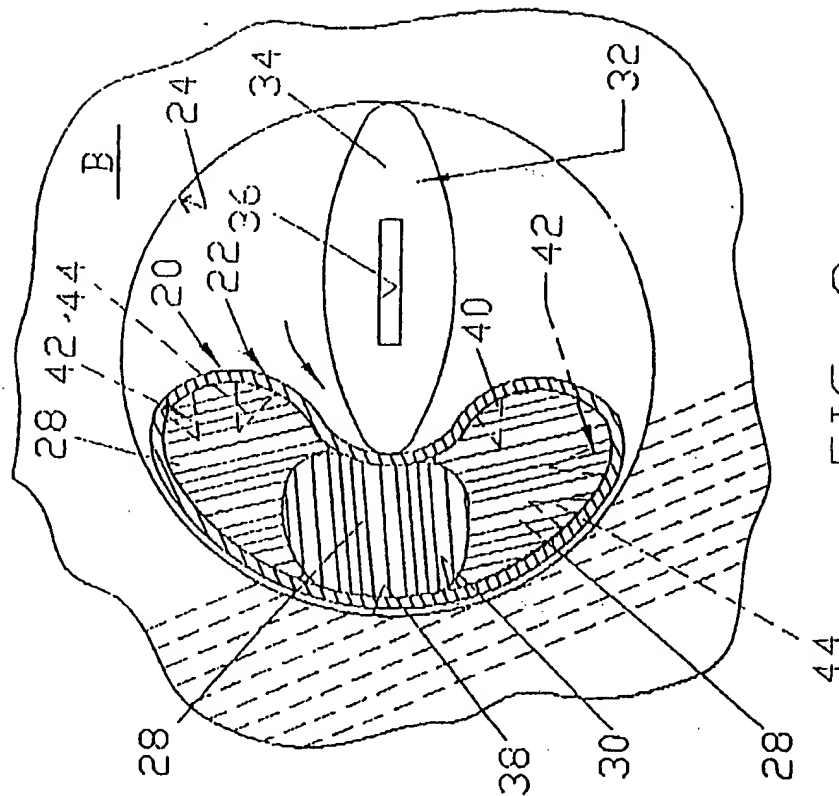


FIG. 2

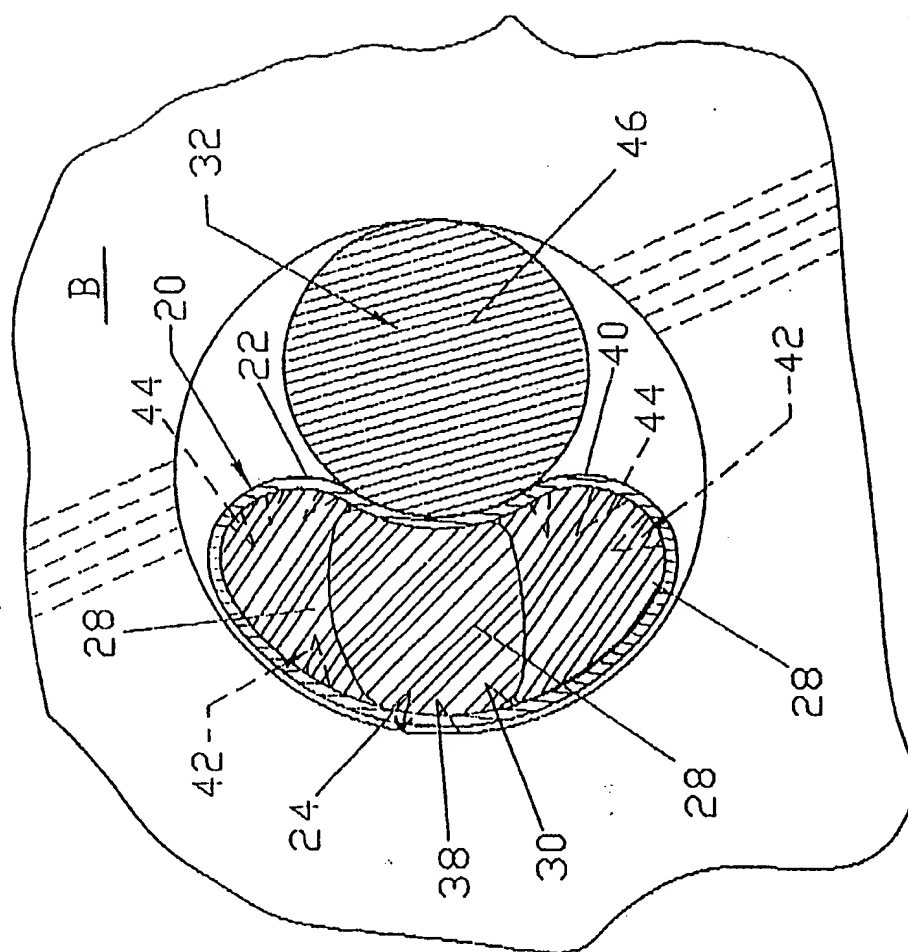


FIG. 3

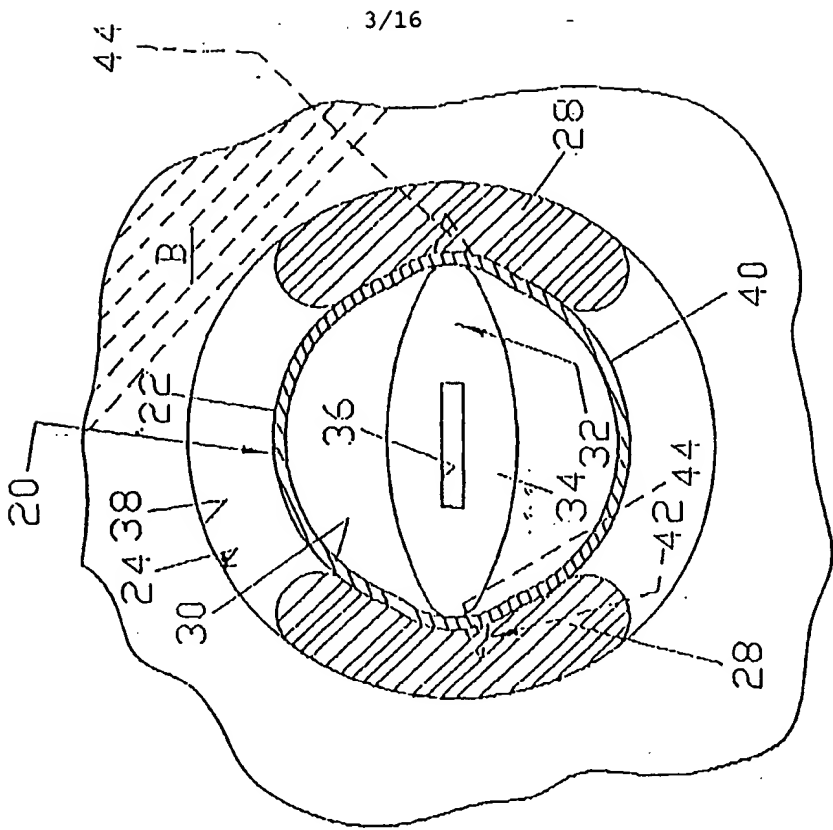


FIG. 5

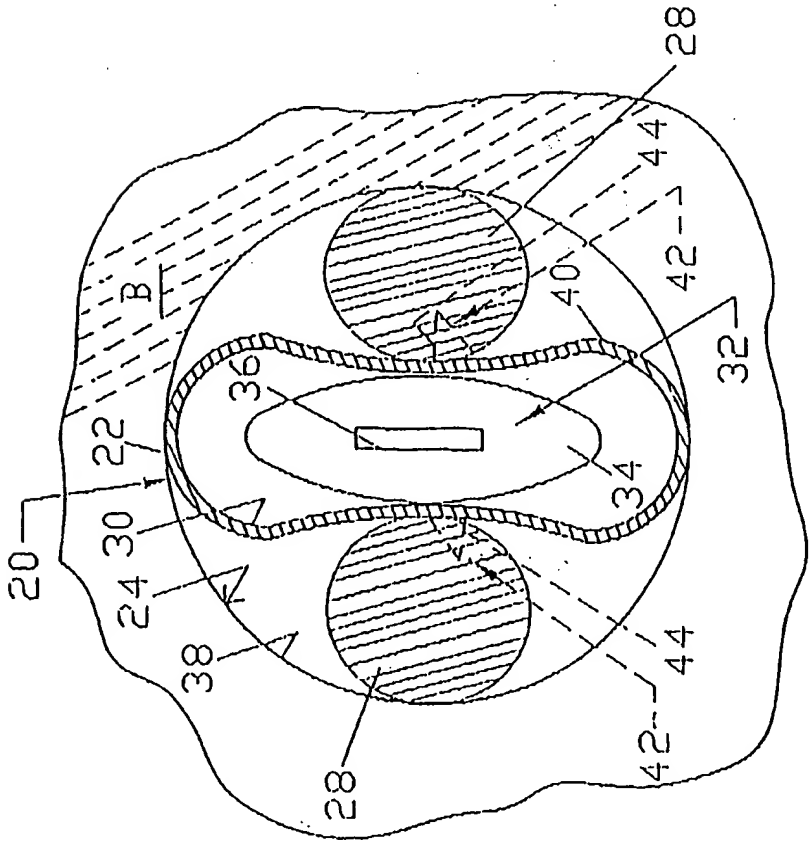


FIG. 4

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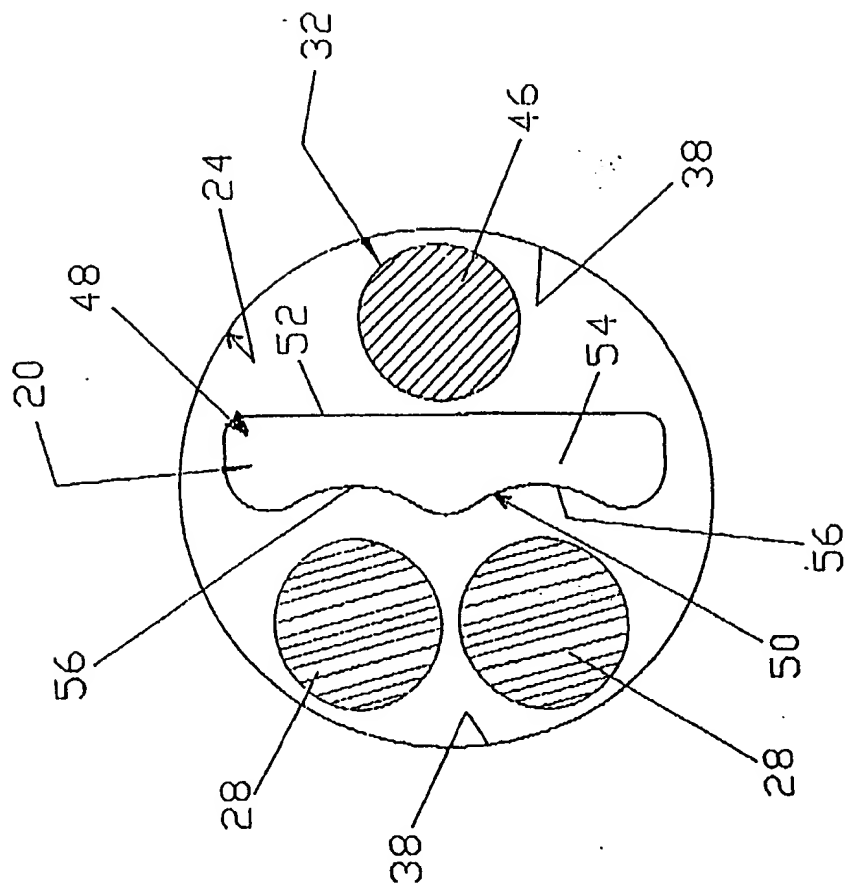


FIG. 6

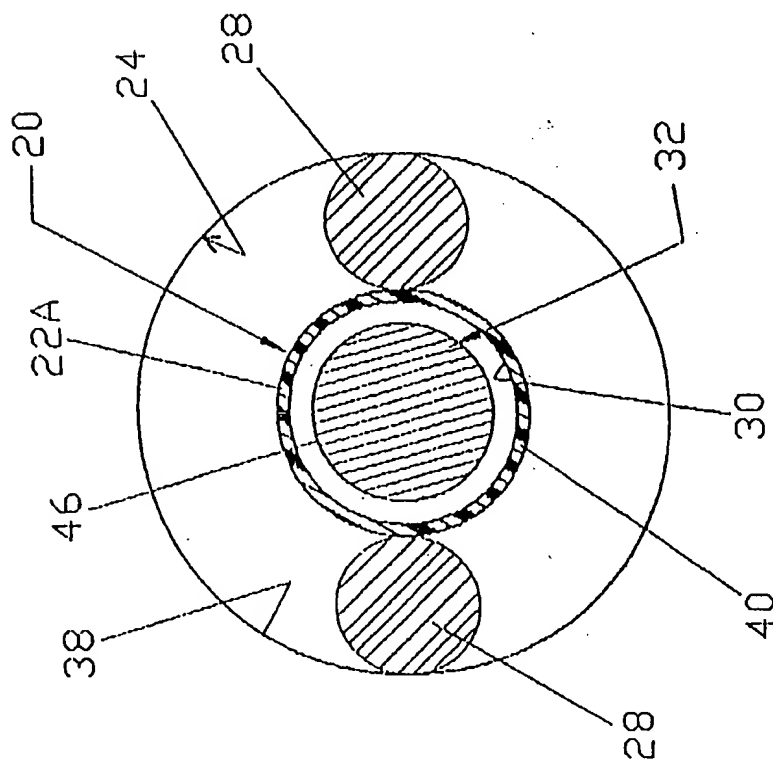


FIG. 7

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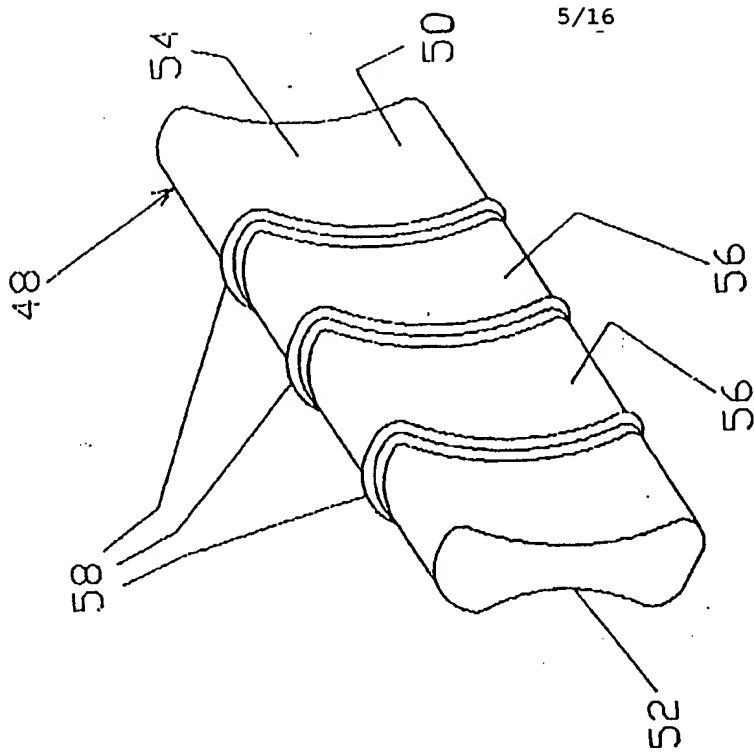


FIG. 9

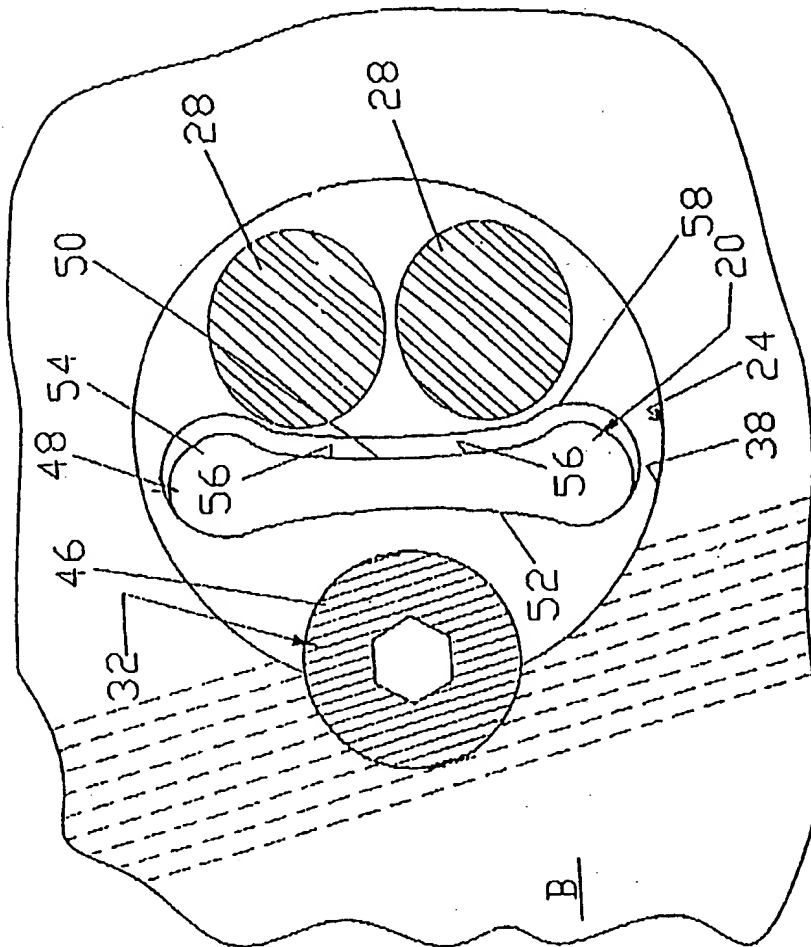


FIG. 8

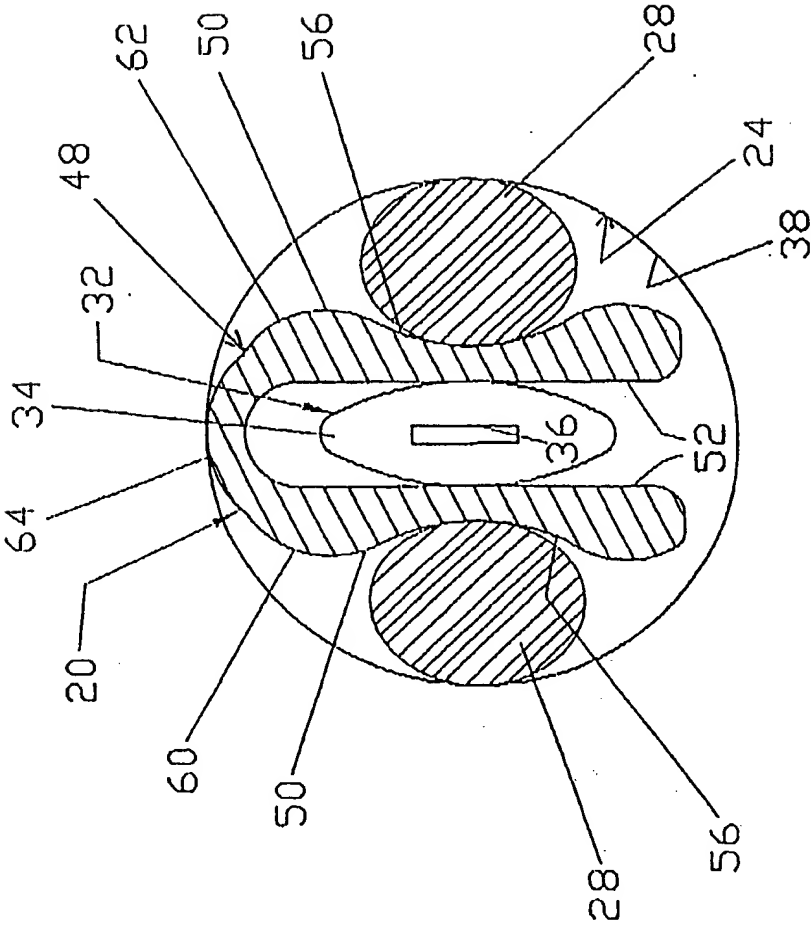
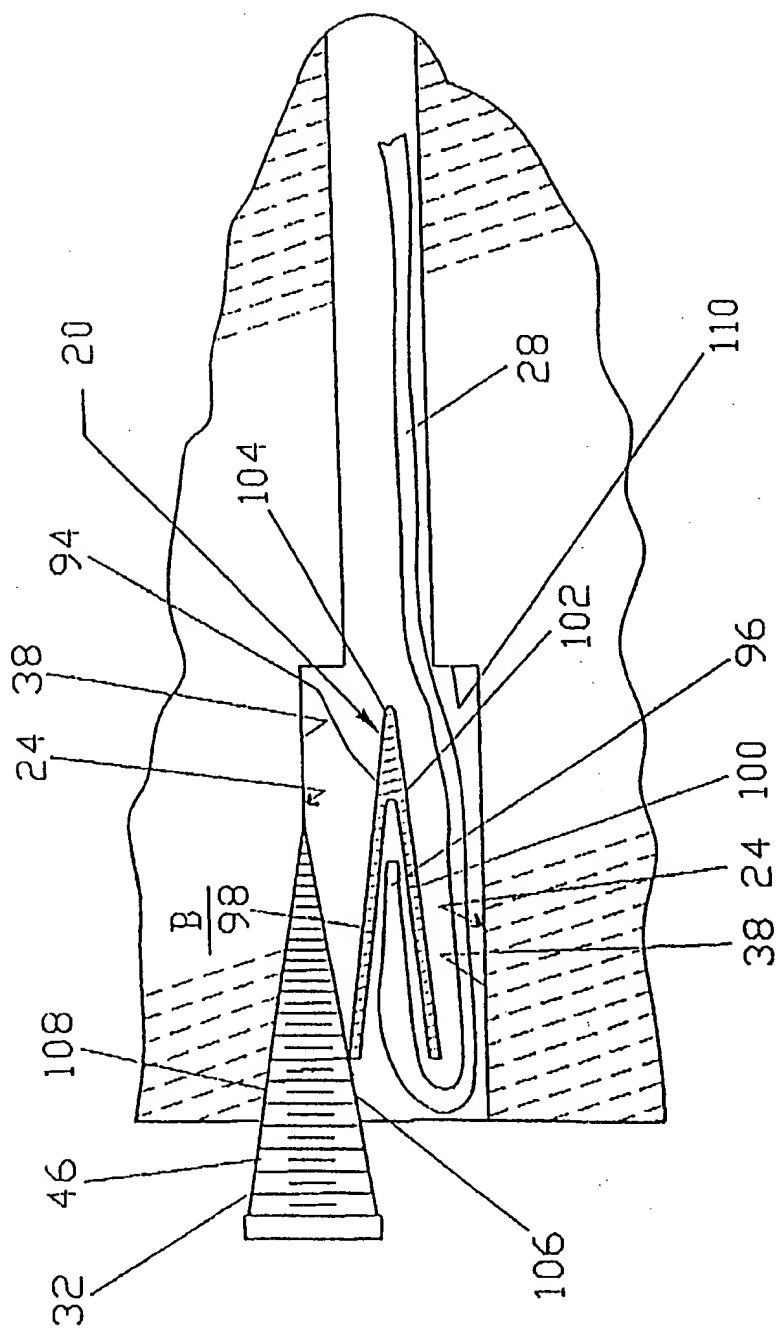


FIG. 10

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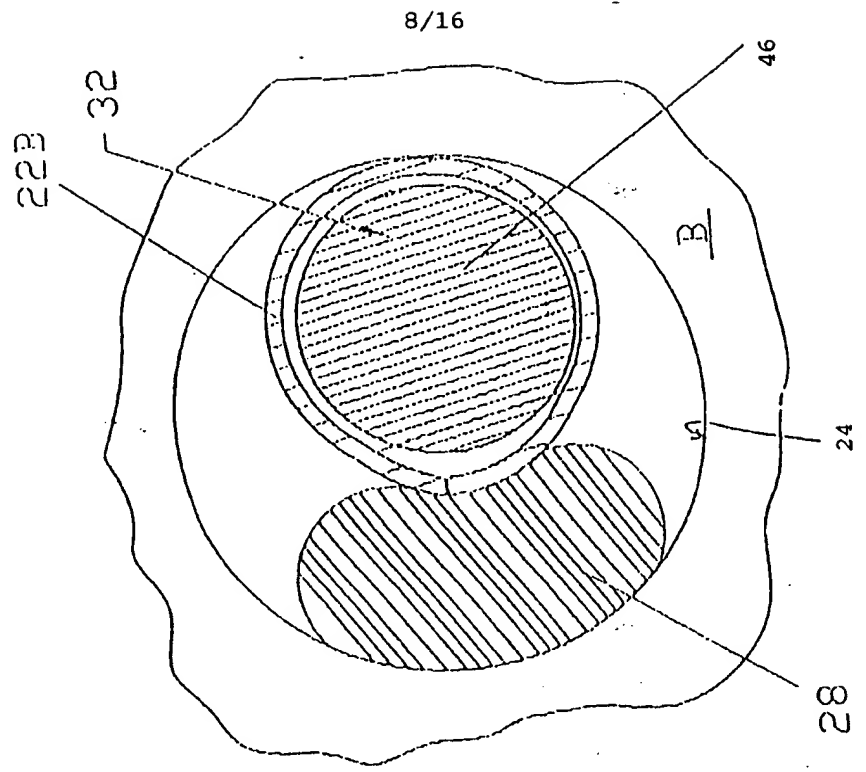


FIG. 13

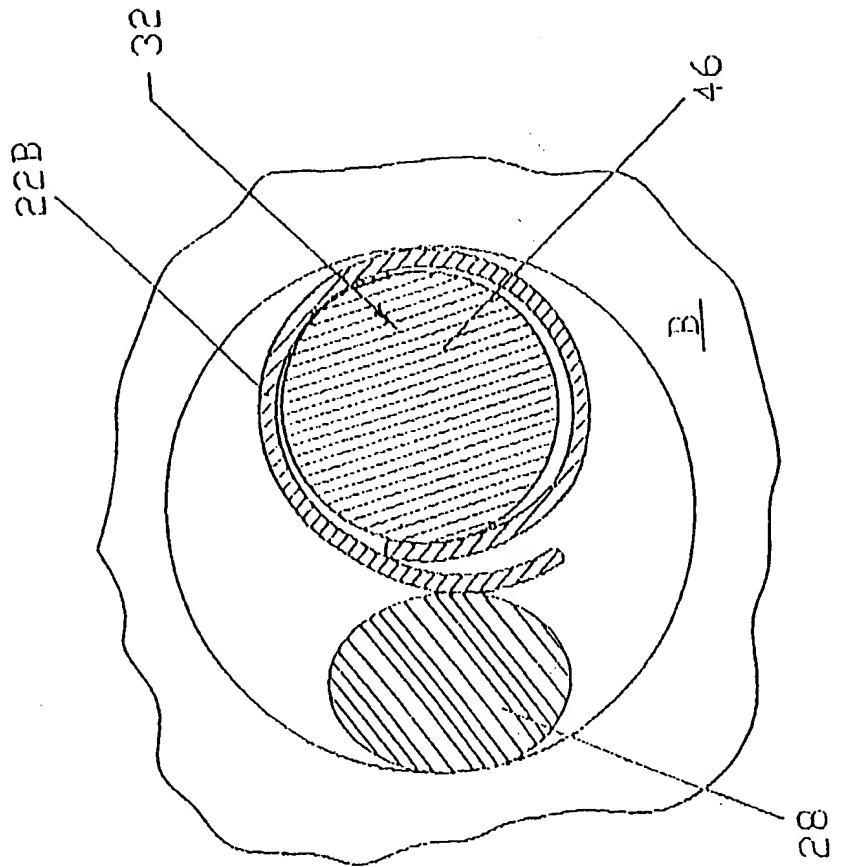


FIG. 12

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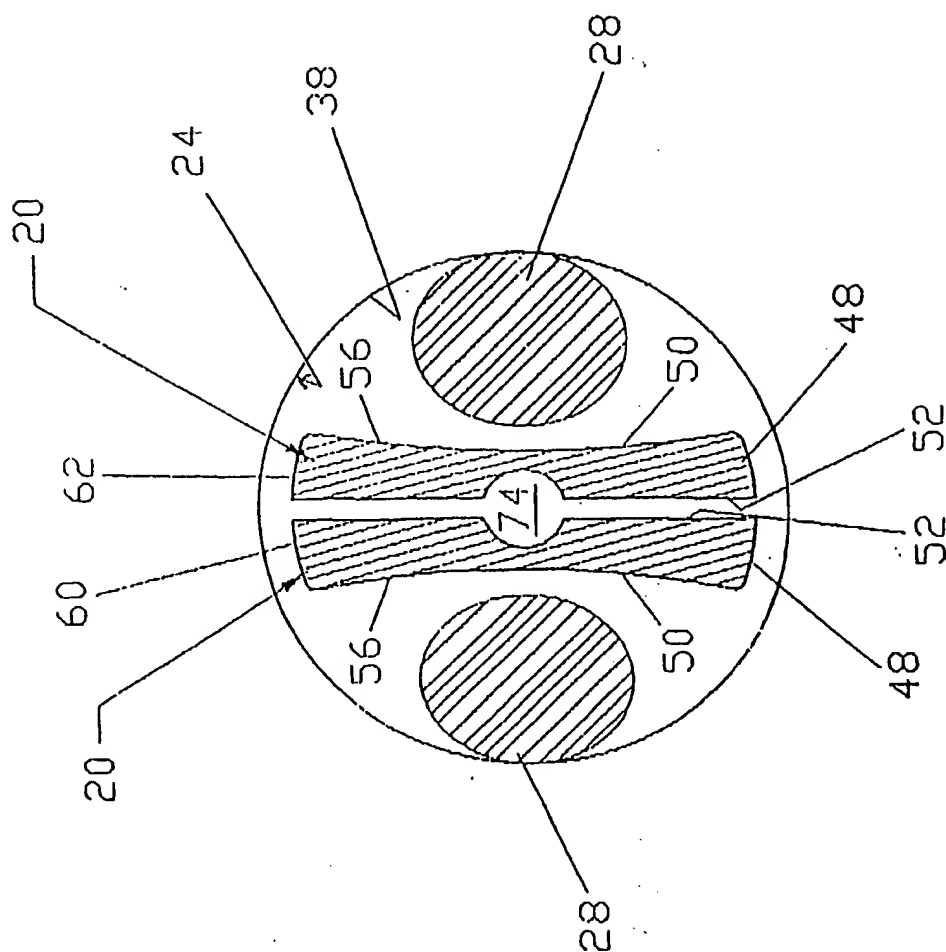


FIG. 13A

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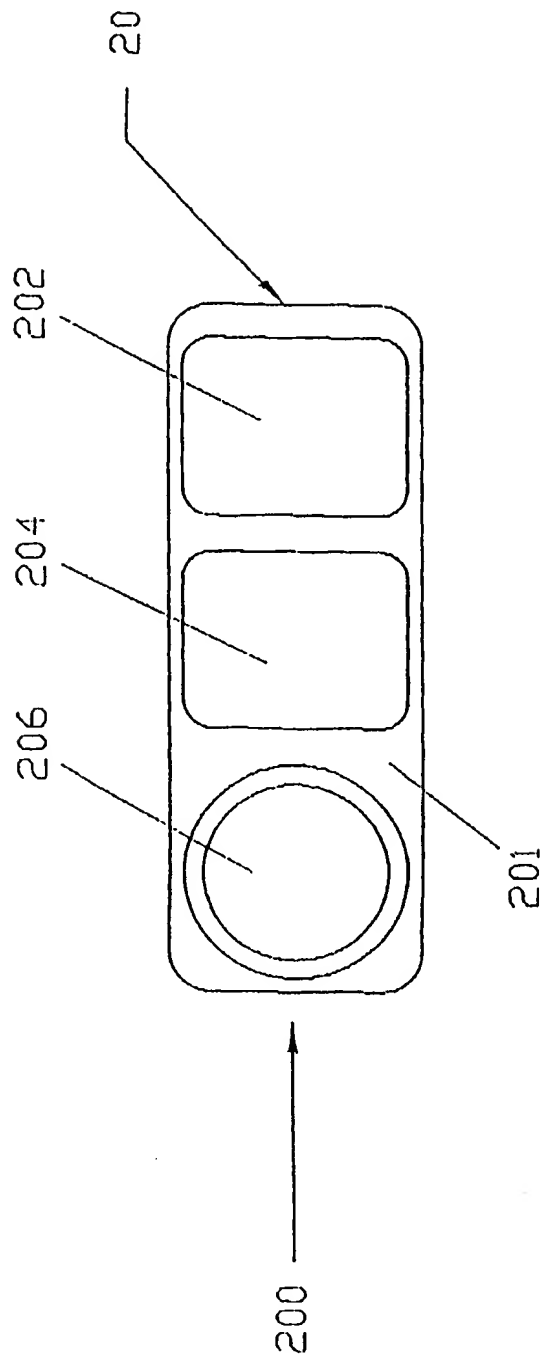


FIG. 14

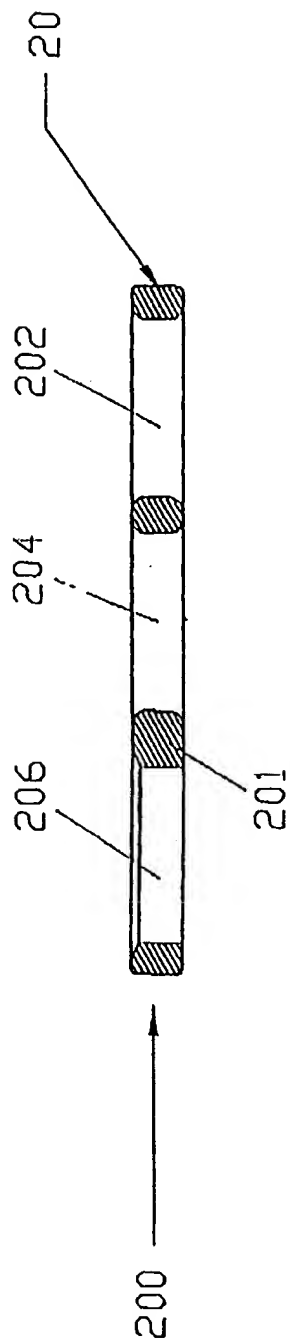


FIG. 15

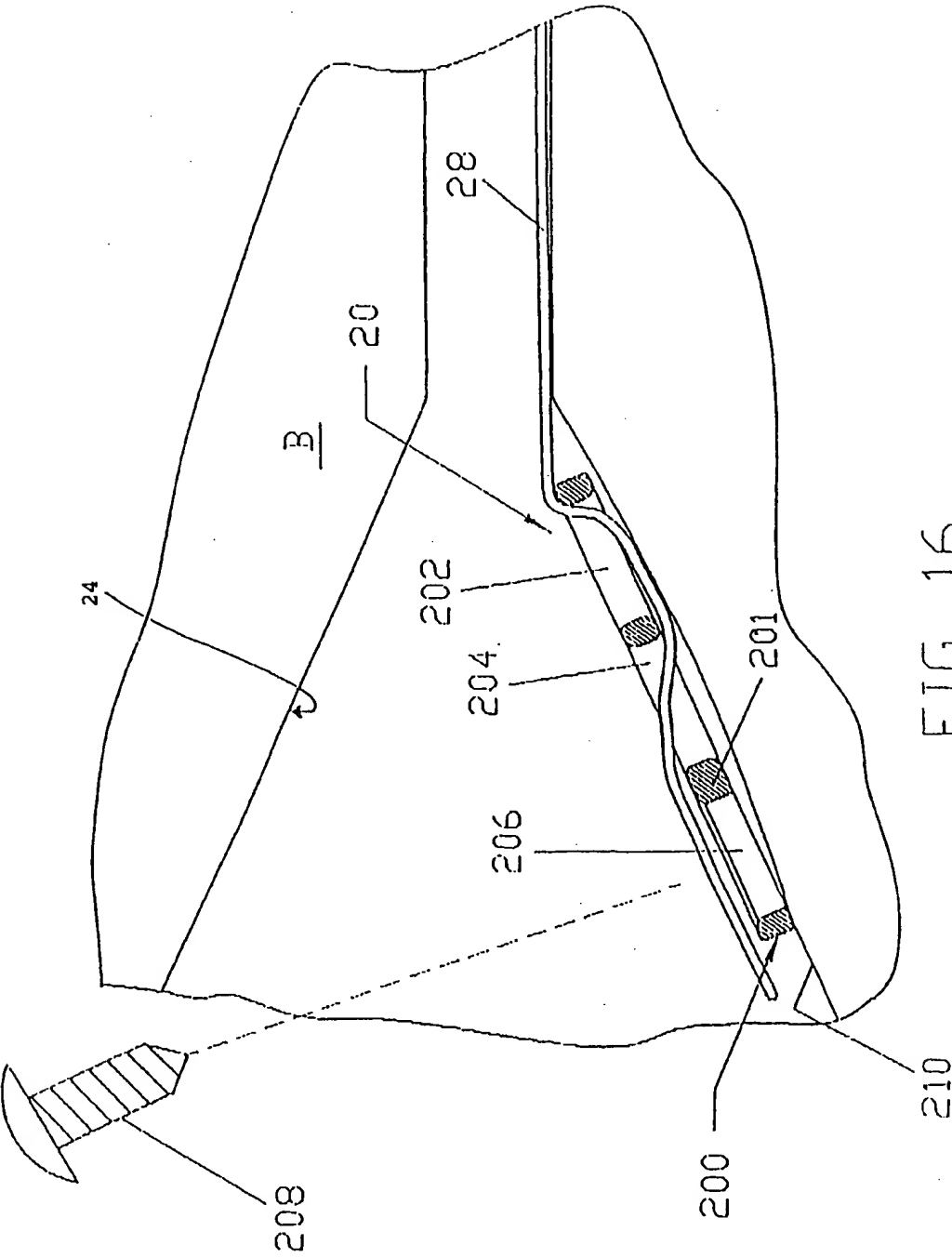


FIG. 16

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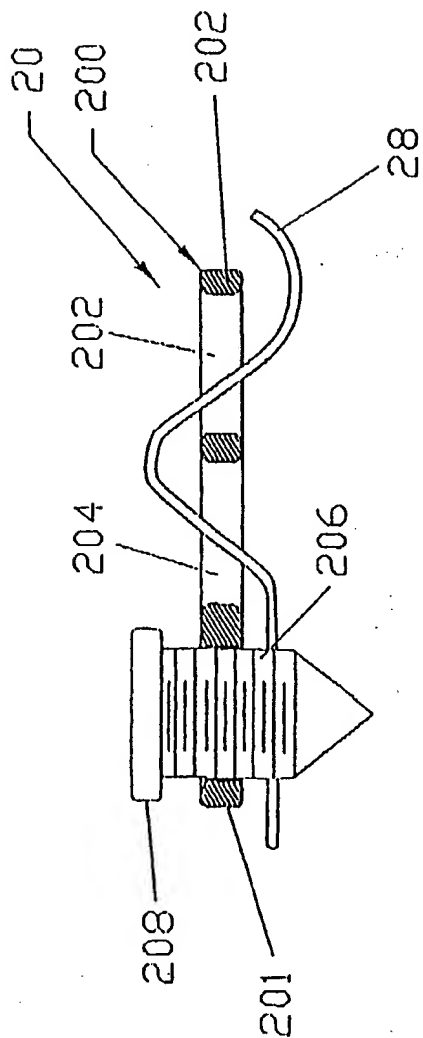


FIG. 17

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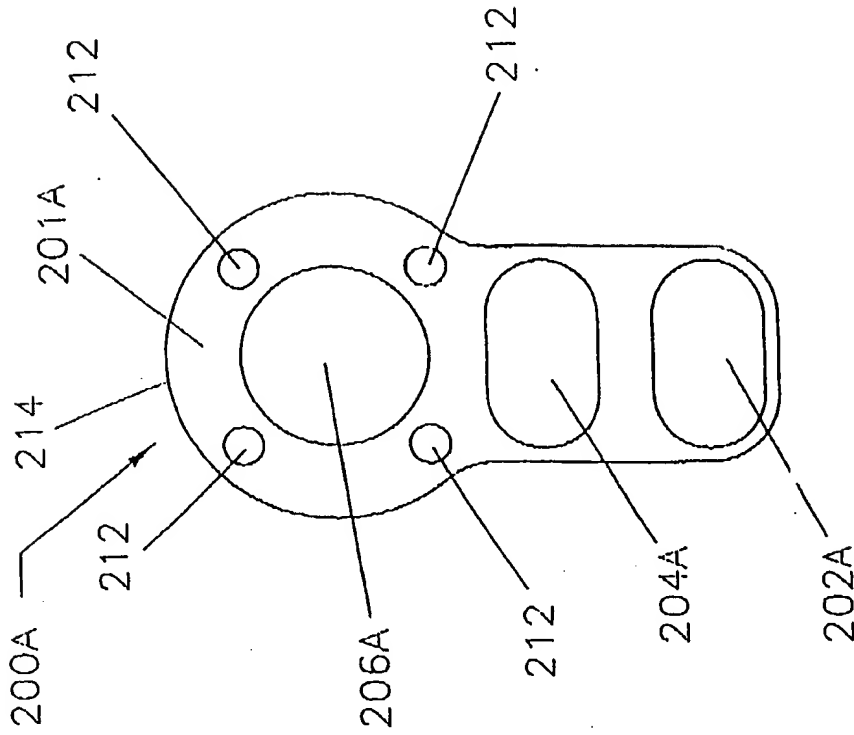


FIG. 18

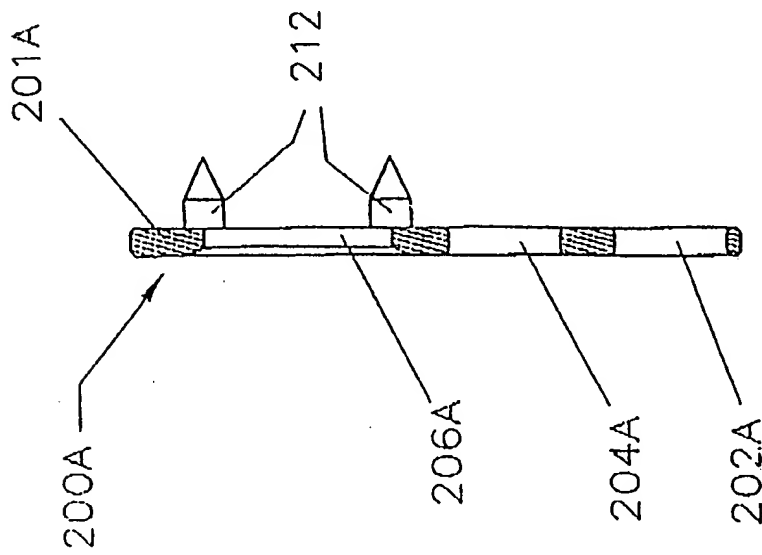


FIG. 19

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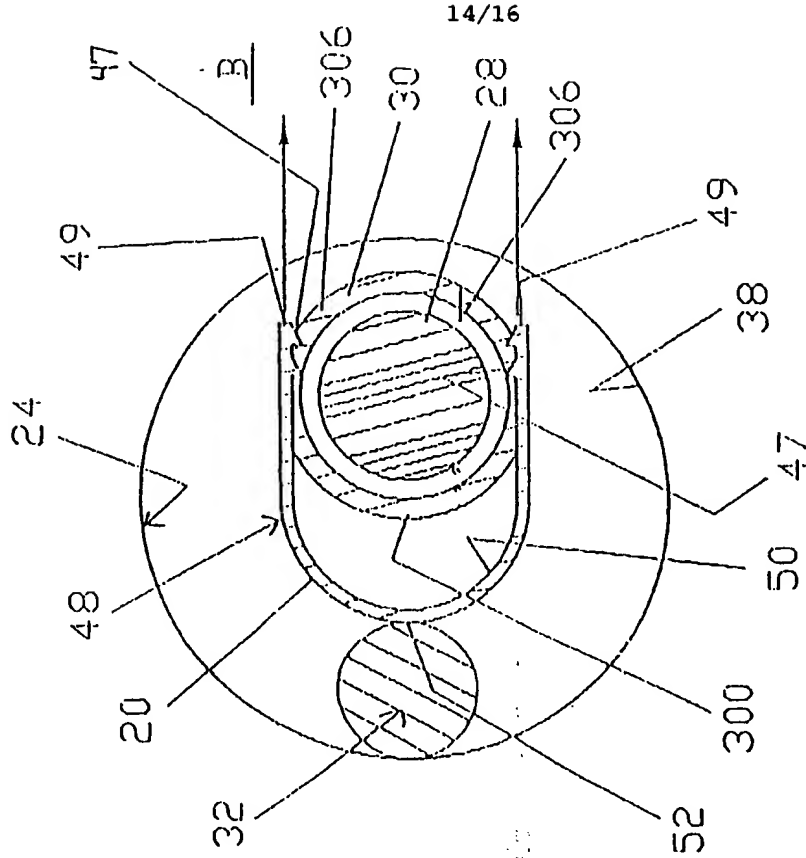


FIG. 22

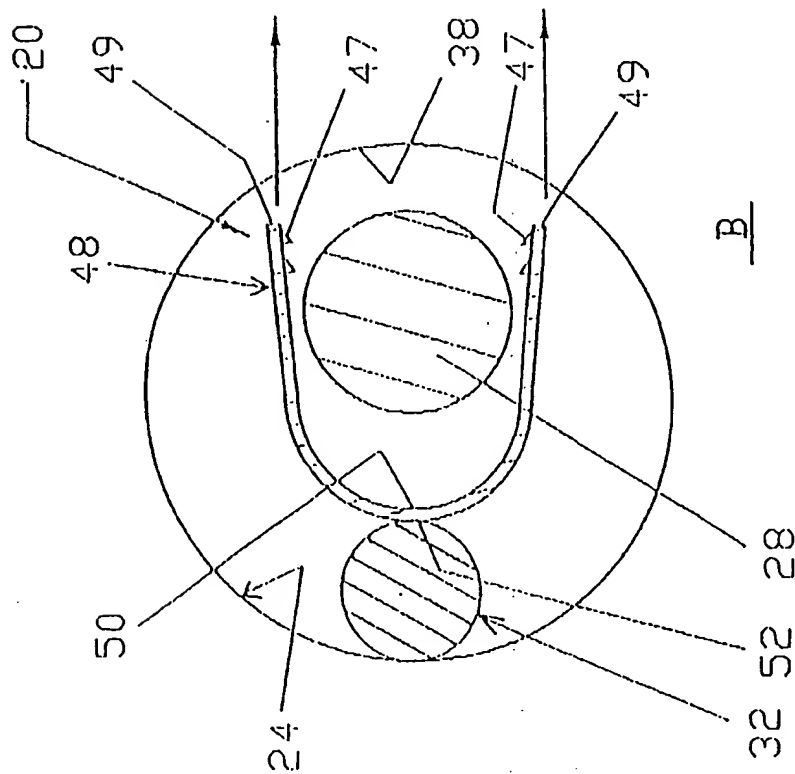
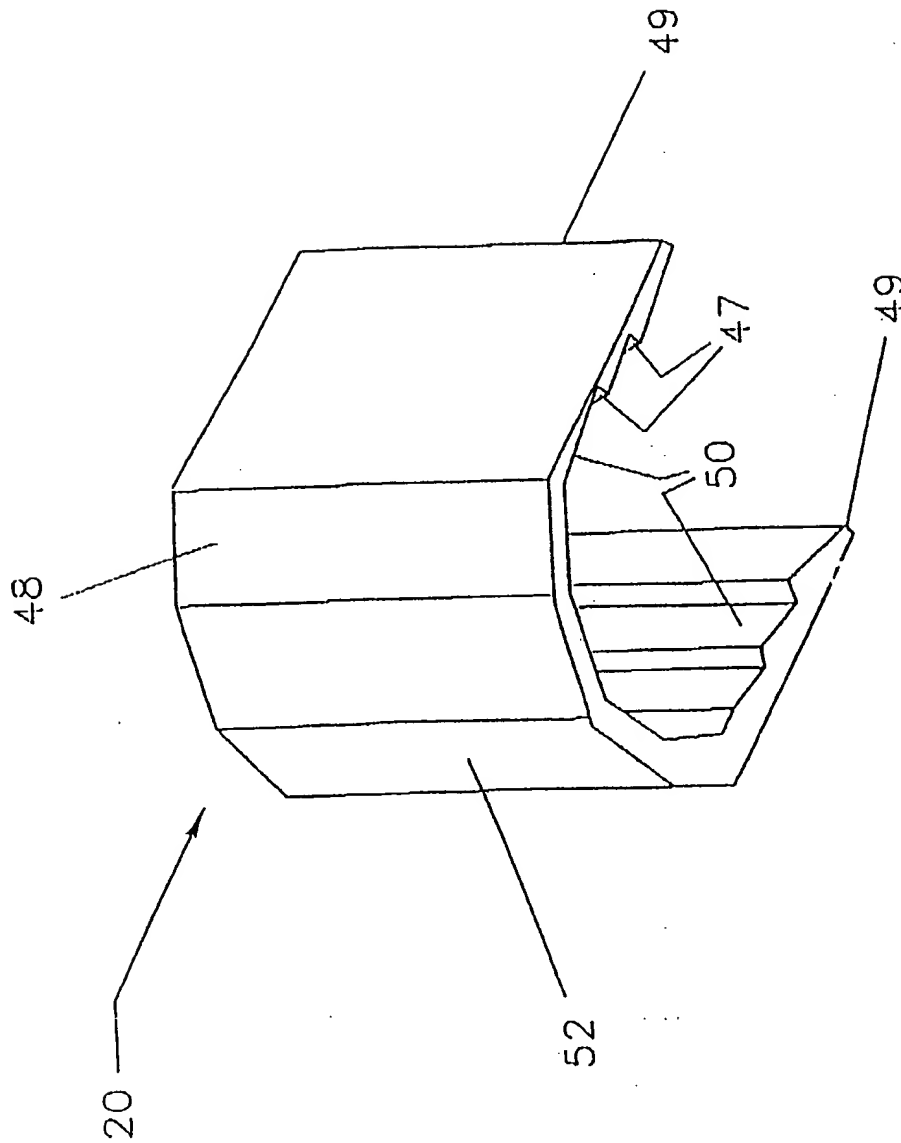


FIG. 20



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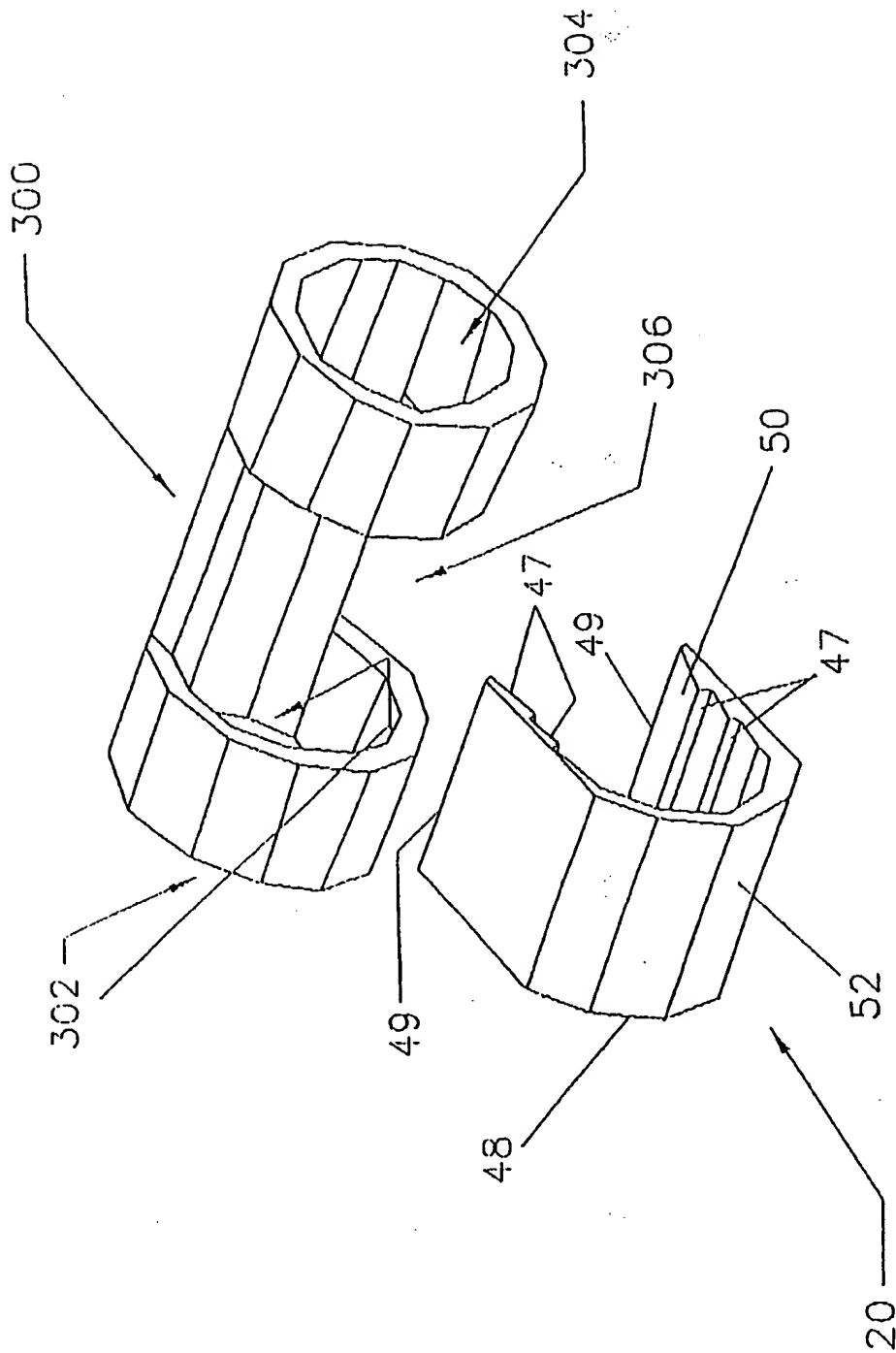


FIG. 23

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US97/21910

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :A61F 2/08

US CL :623/13

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 623/13

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,828,526 A (KENNA) 09 May 1989, entire document.	1-52
A	US 5,376,119 A (ZIMMERMANN et al.) 27 December 1994, entire document.	1-52
A	US 5,425,767 A (STEININGER et al.) 20 June 1995, entire document.	1-52



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*A* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 FEBRUARY 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

04 MAR 1998

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
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